

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN THREE COUNTIES

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, August 30, 2005Unemployed workers in three counties declared disaster areas as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina may be eligible for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program according to Phyllis Kennedy, Director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

The affected counties are: Baldwin , Mobile, and Washington.

“Persons eligible for DUA benefits are those who worked in, or live in, these counties and became unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina,” says Kennedy.

Claims for state unemployment compensation (UC) benefits may be filed beginning on Tuesday, August 30, 2005 by calling 1-866-234-5382. Generally, persons who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but a claimant may qualify for DUA if state UC benefits are exhausted. Self-employed individuals will be requested to provide a copy of their 2004 income tax records. **The final date to file a claim in these counties is September 29, 2005.**

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: www.dir.alabama.gov.